

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-27 and 29-30 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5-6 and 31 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 28 is pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 11-13, 16-18, 21-24, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chow (U.S. Patent No. 5,157,240; "Chow") in view of Chandler (U.S. Patent No. 2,799,764; "Chandler") or Isaacson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,842,241; "Isaacson") and Yamashita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,034,200; "Yamashita") or Fassell (U.S. Patent No. 3,811,900; "Fassell").

Claims 3, 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chow in view of Chandler or Isaacson and Yamashita or Fassell as applied to claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 11-13, 16-18, 21-24 and 29-30 above, and further in view of Kano et al. (U.S. Patent 6,242,719).

Claims 7, 8, 15, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chow in view of Chandler or Isaacson and Yamashita or Fassell as applied to claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 11-13, 16-18, 21-24 and 29-30 above, and further in view of Kawase (U.S. Patent No. 5,656,077) or Tanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,296,894).

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chow in view of Chandler or Isaacson and Yamashita or Fassell as applied to claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 11-13, 16-18, 21-24 and 29-30 above, and further in view of Okuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,804,823).

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chow in view of Chandler or Isaacson and Yamashita or Fassell as applied to claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 11-13, 16-18, 21-24 and 29-30 above, and further in view of Takagi (U.S. Patent No. 4,217,855).

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chow in view of Chandler or Isaacson and Yamashita or Fassell as applied to claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 11-13, 16-18, 21-24 and 29-30 above, and further in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,024,799) or Murakami et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,728,223).

The cancellation of claims 1-4, 7-27 and 29-30 renders these rejections moot. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 28 is allowed over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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